

## Infill development an excellent idea

Sept. 6, 2008 12:00 AM

Regarding "Now is the time to stop building freeways" (Environment, Aug. 22):

If Professor Aaron Golub's ideas weren't so ludicrous, they would be laughable. These ivory-tower sociologists think they can "engineer" people to give up their automobiles in favor of public transportation and live in high-rise condos instead of suburban, single-family dwellings.

Even if possible, this kind of change will take time. Years.

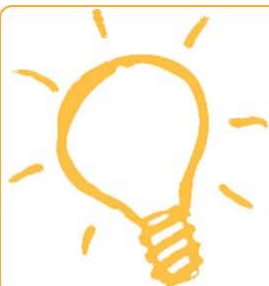
In the next 10 years, there will be thousands more new retirees arriving in the Valley every month. Typically they desire an active lifestyle with room to park a boat or other recreational vehicles, maybe a garden or a couple of fruit trees. They're not going to settle for a condo with no parking and barbecue on the balcony. It's for sure that they're not going to give up their automobiles, no matter what gasoline costs.

So the idea to stop improving our freeway system to meet the needs of a booming population is simply not realistic. Unless those many thousands of people could be stopped from coming here, the freeways must be maintained and expanded to meet

their needs, lest the whole Valley come grinding to a halt.

It's true that infill development is sorely needed in the Valley, but developers prefer to buy cheaper, outlying land in order to increase their profits. Golub should consider persuading the developers to build on available land within existing populated areas. Incentives could be provided for residential development within a specified number of miles from downtown. This would be a realistic approach to provide options for some who would accept the inner-city lifestyle. - **Ralph Morris**, Glendale

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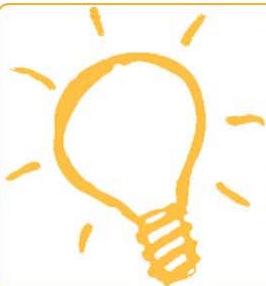
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